

# MACDONALD COLLEGE JOURNAL



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# THE MACDONALD COLLEGE JOURNAL

## Welding Nine Pieces Into One

We've now been officially recognized as Canadian citizens for a full year. But, strangely enough, this new status has brought little change into most of our lives. We go about our daily work just the same as before. And some of us are still inclined to think of people in other sections of Canada as Maritimers or Westerners or Upper Canadians or Quebecers, instead of welcoming them into our own basket that's labelled "just plain Canadians".

This is a strange country in some ways. When a war comes, we suddenly realize that we're all Canadians, and rally to fight side by side. But when the crisis has passed we're inclined to sink back into our sectional thinking, and resume our old bickerings with other parts of Canada. Then about the only thing that can arouse us to awareness that we are all affected by the same forces is a depression, or an epidemic that sweeps the country.

Luckily, we have one other bond that skips across the imaginary lines between provinces just as easily as disease, depression and war. It is radio. To meet the special needs of local people it provides regional broadcasts; but besides that, it brings Canadians from East to West together as a single audience, to enjoy the same programs.

Radio keeps people in each section of Canada in touch with all the others, from day to day and year to year. It lets us know what's going on in our country, and what other Canadians think of these developments. It keeps us informed of happenings in the rest of the world, and their possible effects on us. It tells us things we need to know as Canadians; and it also brings us entertainment suited to our varied tastes.

In addition, to its contributions to our entertainment and general information, radio brings us much that has real dollars and cents value to us. Consider the farm broadcasts as an example. Day by day they give current market quotations, so farmers may know what prices they may expect to get for their produce. This information protects us from many of the sharp practices that were carried on in earlier years. These broadcasts also keep farmers posted on the latest developments in production and marketing, so that we may keep up with the times,

and not be caught napping. And through the National Farm Radio Forum, farmers from coast to coast are drawn together into one big group, with the accent on identity of interests.

There is a tendency to take all this for granted — to consider that similar services would be given under any system of radio broadcasting. But this is a mistake. For example, though most of the top U.S. programs are sent out over extensive networks, many people in the U.S. can't get them at all. The catch is that local stations substitute other programs, because they bring in extra revenue. The paradoxical result is that any Canadian with a radio can hear many good U.S. programs that are relayed by our networks, while millions of people south of the border have no means of hearing them.

We have this advantage because the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was set up, with the support of all political parties in this country, to ensure that radio would be used for public education and entertainment, instead of propaganda or private profit.

Relaying top U.S. programs is only one phase of the CBC's activities. It originates many good programs of its own, which are heard both through its own outlets and through private stations. It also polices the private stations, to see that they give their listeners a square deal. What errors it has made have usually been on the side of laxity. Broadcasting in Canada would benefit considerably from stricter application of the rule that requires each local station to originate a certain number of programs that will be of real service to its community.

Canadian radio is not perfect. But it has safeguards to protect listeners from all the nonsense that many local stations would carry if they could, simply because the worst programs usually give the greatest net profit. The CBC is also bringing us genuine pictures of all sections of this country, so that in time we may be able to see that our sectional differences are mostly imaginary.

When that day finally comes we'll have a united Canada.

### Our Cover Picture

The typically French-Canadian village street scene used on our cover this month was taken at Vaudreuil, P.Q.

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# Toward Greener Pastures

If you want to improve your farm, a good place to start is your pasture. Where the herd and the management are good, fertilizer will frequently pay for itself in one season—and its benefits will carry over for several more.

by L. C. Raymond

THE yield of many pastures can be advanced anywhere from 50 to 100 per cent if they are given the proper treatment. Wherever a reasonable sod exists to begin with, pastures will respond readily to a surface application of fertilizers.

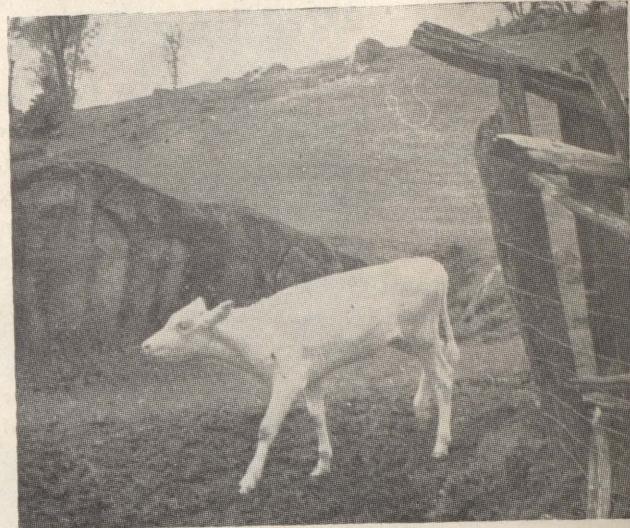
The Lennoxville Experimental Station has shown how to treat pasture land for a profitable return. For many years now, on a location by no means the best, the Station has grazed its dairy herd on long-term pasture reclaimed from practically a worthless condition. Varying slightly with the season, the carrying-capacity has been at least one mature animal per acre or over. The most economical return has been obtained through moderate applications of a mineral fertilizer, containing the two elements, phosphorus and potassium.

The simplest and most economical type of pasture improvement is the application of suitable fertilizer combinations to the surface of the existing sod. This does not mean that every pasture field will respond regardless of its condition and position. Best results will be obtained where the land has a good natural moisture supply and where the existing sod is a good one.

Many fields are partially brush-covered or where moss hummocks have developed. It is of little use to fertilize these without first destroying these invaders. Much of this work has been done by bull dozers during the past few years. While these implements have a definite place, they must be used with some caution. Many hills have been scraped bare of top-soil to fill adjoining hollows, only to find that the denuded hill-tops take a very long time to become productive. Choice of land to fertilize should therefore begin with the better parts and gradually take in the poorer fields as experience and results dictate.

The fertilizers most likely to be required are those containing two plant nutrients, phosphorus and potassium, particularly the former. The commercial mix most suitable is the 0-14-7. Wherever there is a wide-spread growth of wild white clover this plant takes care of the zero in the formula and supplies the needed nitrogen.

While there is a limit to the amount of fertilizer to apply, a liberal treatment will give the most economical



This calf will never become a healthy, productive cow on the bare rocky pasture it's leaving in search of better grazing.

return. An initial application should not be less than five hundred pounds per acre. This should be followed by a similar or slightly smaller treatment in two or three years time, and thereafter as required, but treatments should be given at least every three years.

Next to the amount, the time of treatment is most important. The fertilizer should be available to the plants no later than the start of spring growth. It is sometimes difficult to get on to pasture fields thus early, and the practice has grown up of making the application the fall before. There is much to be said in favour of this custom.

To keep the expense of pasture improvement on an even basis, it is a good scheme to plan on fertilizing some pasture land every year. This will also provide a steadier output from year to year. In general, with a measure of aftermath grazing — usually available — it is unwise to fertilize more than about three-quarters of an acre of land for each mature animal in the herd.

## Keep Grass Short

Once the expense of fertilizing a field has been undertaken, the handling or management of that field should be planned so as to get the best possible return. Pasture herbage is at its highest value when in the young, leafy stage. In most long term pastures, once the herbage is over four inches high it begins to drop rapidly in food value. Grazing management must therefore be arranged to keep down excess growth. Where feasible to use it, the mowing machine is a useful implement to remove tufts that are uneaten and any weeds that may be present.

Better grazing management can be effected where it is possible to divide the field into two or three smaller



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It's the same way with the farmer himself, or his hired man. How much he can earn depends mainly on how much he produces in a season, and that is measured pretty much by the amount of farm work he can do in an hour, day after day.

It long has been customary to talk in terms of yields per acre. *Today we need to talk in terms of yields per man.* Better farm animals and better crop varieties add materially to the yield per man, but the thing that really multiplies a man's capacity to produce is modern farm machinery.

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# CASE



ones—moving the herd from field to field in rotation. On any heavily grazed section there is a likelihood of fouling the land with manure droppings. These must be distributed periodically to promote uniform grazing. The best implement for the purpose is a pasture harrow; where this implement is not available, a home-made one may be devised.

Although these recommendations hold true generally, scarcely any two farms present exactly the same pattern for pastures. Farms vary a great deal in shape, and particularly in the placement of the cleared land with reference to the farm buildings. There must always be a close relationship between the quality of the herd and the amount of expense that can be afforded for pasture improvement. A high producing herd warrants good pasture, but no pasture, however good, can make a high producer from a scrub animal. Pasture improvement and herd improvement must move hand in hand.

### Why Not Near Buildings?

There is a strong tendency to assign land to pasture that is of low value for cropping. Usually, though not always, this is at some distance from the buildings. It is poor economy indeed to require a good herd to tramp twice a day over long distances to and from an indifferent pasture. In many cases it is a wiser plan to use some of the distant fields for cropping and draw the pasture area in close to the buildings on good tillable land. The higher the quality of the herd the more this practice is justified. Short-term pastures, employing more productive species and more frequent breaking and reseeding may then be justified.

This whole question must be studied carefully in the light of the individual farm, the land and the livestock. Pastures have long been neglected and must be restored to their rightful position. Good pastures with a productive herd are likely to return more real value per acre than the cropped land.

By and large the weak points in our pasture programs are in midsummer — the hottest and driest part of the year — and in the late fall. Frequently supplementary pastures are planned to overcome such shortages. Fall rye has some place as a late fall pasture and also to prevent washing or erosion on cultivated land. For these purposes it may be fully justified. In general, however, it is a more economical procedure to place the emphasis on good long or short term pastures with a sufficiently high level of fertility to keep them productive.

Pasture improvement will usually pay off faster than any other type of farm investment. Where the herd and the management are good, a fertilized pasture will frequently pay for itself in one season, and the effect of the treatment will carry over at least three years.

## Good Time for Planning Says Iowa Dean

The continuing need for food and demand for farm products in this immediate postwar period presents farmers with an excellent opportunity to make long-time plans for the future, believes H. H. Kildee, dean of the Agricultural Division at Iowa State College.

"It seems to me," Dean Kildee says, "that there are two general areas that require attention. The first is the general over-all national and international programs which will affect farmers. The second concerns the planning and organization of individual farms with emphasis on improved family living."

In the field of national and international programs, Dean Kildee expressed approval of increased efforts to promote greater trade between nations.

### Encourage Trade

"While we have made some progress in this direction in recent years, there still is a long way to go," he said. "Greater freedom of trade between nations will encourage a better understanding among all people."

Even with favorable demand and high employment, improvements in production methods may present problems when it comes to specific commodities. Here farmers should be prepared to make necessary shifts in production to meet changing demands.

### Improve Quality

On individual farms increased attention must be given to the quality of products produced, whether those products are eggs, milk, meat or fruit. By raising quality standards farmers can do much to encourage increased consumption of the food they produce. In order to raise quality standards it will be necessary to find ways and means of selling products on a quality basis. Through the expanded markets news service, the road is opening up for further progress along these lines.

"These problems and many others are of an economic nature," emphasized Dean Kildee. "They have to do with money and income, and that is important. But it also is important that we give considerable thought in the future to better living on the farm. This means planning for new or remodeled homes, improved farm buildings and farmstead layouts, more education for the children and increased travel for the whole family."

"The farm has all the ingredients for good living, and we should be in a position now to take advantage of those ingredients," Dean Kildee concluded.

### Take Chill Off Water

Ice in stock tanks may cut off the supply of water to cows. If they don't get enough to drink, down goes milk production. If you have electricity, the answer is electric stock tank heaters. Otherwise, a heater fired by wood or coal will serve the purpose.

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# Pioneering in Glengarry

by J. S. Cram

THE most famous school in Canada is an old log building a couple of miles north of Maxville, on the C.N.R. line about half way between Montreal and Ottawa. This old school was the setting for Ralph Connor's well-known novel, "Glengarry School Days."

The original building, recalled by Connor fans as "The Twentieth," has been preserved as a monument to the author. Just a couple of hundred yards up the slope from it stands the Gordon Memorial Church, built in honour of the famous author, who in real life was the Reverend Charles Gordon.

Standing in the doorway of the log schoolhouse it is very easy to imagine it filled with the youngsters of a by-gone day — the boys who were fated to grow into better men because they had studied under as fine a teacher as Archibald Munro. There are fleeting glimpses of the boys heading away through the woods toward the Deepole, where Hughie Murray was almost drowned, and of the examination day when all the parents were on hand to see the children go through their paces. That was the great occasion when Mrs. Murray, the minister's wife, spelled down the highly touted teacher from the 16th in the grand finale of the day.

There were less pleasant moments, too, like when the new schoolmaster tried his bullying tactics and was brought to order by the boys. And there was the nasty situation brought on by the stiffneckedness of the old dominie.

**The world has moved a long way since the Glengarry schooldays described by Ralph Connor. Most of Glengarry County has gone through three stages of development. But some of the land has missed a couple of stages, and needs special attention to bring it back into productive use.**

No, it isn't hard to go back to those days. Across the road from the school stands a log house, and across the corner an old frame house that might well be a contemporary of the school. But one thing is missing — the great forest that once surrounded the school. Now there is just a little grove in the schoolyard, and for miles around the countryside has been stripped of most of its trees.

Although there are some very good farmers in Glengarry, much of this territory is still being pioneered — much of it in the third stage, but some still back in the first.

The first stage belonged back with Connor's Glengarry school days, and consisted of clearing the trees off enough land to grow food for a hungry family. That sort of pioneering needed a strong back and a sharp axe. It also needed discrimination to decide what land



The schoolhouse of Glengarry school days has been preserved as a precious relic of early Canadian history.

should be cleared and what was better in its original state.

Then, with the spread of industrialization, the second stage came along. It was no longer enough to grow something to feed the family, it must have commercial value. So grain standards were set up, and there was a drive to improve the crops in this country. Throughout this stage Robert MacKay of Maxville took an active lead in Glengarry.

Unfortunately, much of this once-wooded county seemed to resent being deprived of its forests. It re-

belled against grain. Often the rain poured down well into the summer, so grain could not be planted; and then early frosts came along and nipped it in the fall. All sorts of insects and plant diseases made life miserable for cereals. And before the end of World War II much land that had once been in grain was back in hay and pasture.

But the grass was not as productive as it might have been; and new pioneers arose to take the lead in finding better pastures for Glengarry. One of these was John Arkinstall, now president of the Glengarry Crop Improvement Association. He tried new mixtures and new methods. And this summer he had an answer. Where other pastures were sparse and strawy, his was thick and lush. He had also found out how to pasture more cattle on the same land through rotation grazing. A mixture of grass and clover, and grazing management, had ended



John Arkinstall inspects a grass and clover pasture that holds promise of better days for many Glengarry farmers.

the actual pioneering in pastures on his farm. Now he just had to put what he had learned into broader practice, and help other farmers to take advantage of it.

There were also pioneers in the improvements of livestock. Glengarry had quite a number of fine dairy herds. But there were still plenty of poor ones, and the good ones might be further improved. So, when an Eastern Ontario Cattle Breeding Association was formed to take

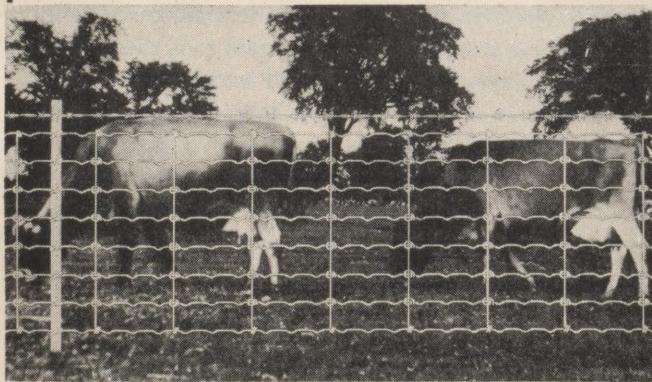
advantage of the benefits of artificial insemination, Glengarry organized not just one, but two units, with over a hundred members and about a thousand cows. One unit has its headquarters at Lancaster, the other at Maxville —both the centres of good dairy districts.

This is their first year of operation; but from the results in other districts, and the fine records of the bulls that are being used, Holstein men in Glengarry are convinced that a few years hence the cattle in their county will be producing considerably better than ever before, and will be eagerly sought by buyers from other parts of the world.

With better pasture and better cattle, the third phase of pioneering in Glengarry has a good chance of being a happier one than either of the other two. But there is still one unhappy feature. A great deal of land that appears suitable for nothing but trees has been ruthlessly cut over, leaving it with nothing but worthless scrub. It has never passed the first pioneer stage.

Perhaps some crop will be found that will thrive on this land as tobacco has thrived on the formerly barren wastes of Essex county. Otherwise, the next stage of pioneering in Glengarry will probably be to reforest this rough land. Then, for the good of the county as a whole it will be necessary to see that the cycle does not start all over again in places where the only future of the land lies in its trees.

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## Loss of Farm Youth in Iowa Is Traced to System of Taxation

The type of education that a rural district provides for its youth has a very direct bearing on the numbers it loses to the city. This has been shown in a study of the problem in Iowa, where the trend appears very much the same as in Canada.

Districts with only rural public schools were compared with consolidated and town independent districts. The loss of farm young people from the public school districts from 1930 to 1939 was 19.5 percent, against only 6.1 percent from the places where better schooling was provided.

Of a typical group of 100 young people reared in districts which had only rural public schools, 81 finished Grade 8, 43 graduated from high school, 4 started college and only one graduated from college. In a similar group in districts with better schools, 95 finished Grade 8, 65 graduated from high school, 19 started college and seven became college graduates.

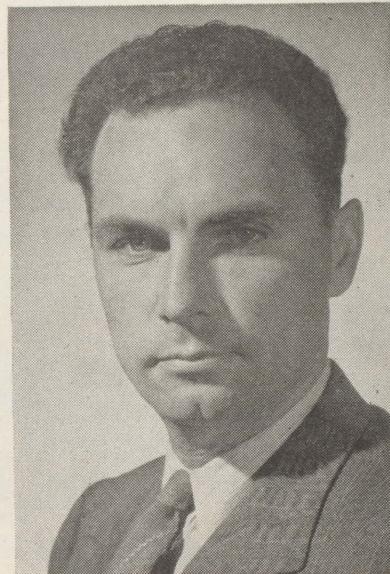
In a bulletin entitled "Iowa's Vanishing Farm Youth," published by the Iowa State College, Ames, the claim is made that, to remove the present educational handicap from children living in districts with only rural public schools, they should be enrolled in the same graded school systems that the other children in the state are attending.

This survey showed that one of the biggest bottlenecks to improved education for rural children was the system of taxation. In 191 consolidated districts farm people were paying \$142 a year per child for education, against \$37 per child for non-farm people in the same districts — 3.84 times as much. At the same time, the average income per child of the farm people was actually less than that of the non-farm people.

Understandably enough, farm people still in districts with only rural public schools were unwilling to join with their town neighbours under a system of taxation requiring them to pay almost four times as much per child as the non-farm people would have to pay. But they did appear willing to have their schools consolidated on a basis of approximately equal cost per child. And the town people were apparently quite prepared to carry a bigger share of the load, as long as it was put on a fair basis.

In spite of their willingness, the bulletin points out that Iowa has not been able to make the necessary changes in its system of taxation. However, Minnesota has shifted its tax basis to bring about the desired equalization of cost per child, apparently with very good results.

## People Worth Watching



Ralph Staples

## Cooperative Missionary

Although still a young man, Ralph Staples has already exerted a great deal of influence on rural life in Canada. From Charlottetown to Victoria he is known for his complete devotion to farm organization and co-operation, and for his almost militant championship of these causes. This championship he conducts on a high plane; he will not stoop to use the tactics of so many who oppose him — red herrings and slick repartee. He is not at all interested in misleading audiences or dazzling them with his own brilliance; he considers the issues of our time too serious to be treated lightly. And his quick rise to national prominence shows that Canadian farmers agree with him.

Ralph Staples was born in 1907, on a fifth generation family farm at Cavan, among the hills of Durham County, Ont.; there he attended the local school and the Lindsay Collegiate Institute. Always active in farm organizations, he won the United Farm Young People's Speaking Competition in 1938; and two years later he was elected to the executive of the United Farmers of Ontario and the board of the United Farmers Co-operative Company.

His active support of the farm forum program won him a dual appointment in 1943; he became both Ontario secretary and national secretary for farm forum. This forced him to leave the family farm and move to Toronto; but before that he had taken the lead in

organizing one of Canada's first farm implement co-operatives in his home district.

Under Ralph's stimulating guidance, the forums grew so rapidly that it was found necessary to divide the two offices the following year, so that he was able to devote his full time to the national organization. In this office, which he held till last spring, he had a rare opportunity to meet leaders of co-operatives and other farm organizations all over Canada.

Nor did he forsake his other activities. He was president of the Ontario Co-operative Union from 1945 to 1947, and in the fall of 1945 he was also elected president of the Co-operative Union of Canada. And when he decided to resign from the secretaryship of National Farm Radio Forum last March he was asked to take over the chairmanship of the forums' executive committee. A month later he became Ontario manager of the Co-operative Life Insurance Company.

This is the imposing array of offices that Ralph Staples holds at the present time: President of the Co-operative Union of Canada, director of the United Farmers Co-operative Company, the Ontario Co-operative Union, and Co-operators' Fidelity and Guarantee Association; Ontario manager of Co-operative Life Insurance.

This record speaks for itself.

## Farm Prices Follow Wages

Farm prices vary greatly from county to county in Quebec, following the annual incomes of wage-earners. This relationship between wages and farm prices is shown in a bulletin "Shifting Markets for Farm Products," recently published by Macdonald College. This bulletin was prepared by Dr. J. E. Lattimer Professor of Agricultural Economics at the College, in co-operation with the Quebec Department of Agriculture.

The study is based on the latest census figures available, those for 1941. It shows that while Gatineau averaged \$1.11 per cwt. for milk and the figure for Chambly was \$1.46, in Pontiac it was only 92 cents. At the same time yearly earnings for workers were between \$600 and \$800 in Gatineau, over \$1,000 in Chambly and less than \$600 in Pontiac.

The solution to his problem, says Dr. Lattimer, lies in a reorganization of farming to increase output per farm and per worker. It might be undertaken through the zoning of farming, and through better land use. And it is possible that farming and forestry might be combined advantageously. Such reorganization would be possible without a greater investment, as both land and labour are lower in areas distant from markets.

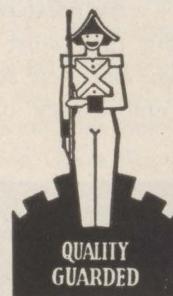
But Dr. Lattimer points out that the complete solution to this problem is not entirely within the hands

of the people living in the low-price areas. Better education is needed, before they are likely to increase their productivity. And he suggests that since people from these districts move to more prosperous sections to get jobs, these sections might help to supply the necessary funds for elementary education in the low-income areas.

### Lowering Cost of Housing Pigs

The farmer who raises only a few pigs can keep housing costs down by using well constructed straw sheds, and planning the farrowing dates for seasons when the weather is usually suitable for young pigs.

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# What Happens to Screenings?

WHAT sometimes happens to screenings when farmers take them home from the cleaning plant was shown in a survey described by W. H. Wright, Chief of Laboratory Services for the Dominion Plant Products Division. One farmer scattered the screenings of red clover on the floor of his chicken-house, and then spread the litter on his fields. Another scattered screenings from timothy around his woodlot and pastures. A third loaded screenings on his wagon at the cleaning plant, but on the way home changed his mind and dumped them on the roadside. And then they wondered why their fields were polluted with weeds!

In another survey made last year samples of seed were taken from drills actually in operation, or from lots of seed which farmers had prepared for seeding. Examination of these samples showed that 40 percent of the seed used would have been classed as "rejected" under the regulations of the Seeds Act, and a large number would only have passed as No. 2 or No. 3 seed.

These examples show that seed cleaning plants with well trained operators could render a very great service to farmers all over this country. But they must have the support of the farmers they serve; and their success depends primarily on the ability and energy of the operators.



Another bag of seed goes on the clean pile.

In addition to thoroughly understanding the operation and capabilities of the machines which he has to operate, the operator of a cleaning plant must know the characters of the seeds — both crops and weeds — which he has to handle. To be able to identify the most important and common weed seeds is something which he must be able to do for himself, unless he is provided with a competent seed analyst who can do the job for him. This knowledge is necessary if thorough cleaning is to be done, because all weed seeds cannot be removed with equal ease from the different kinds of seeds which

Worthless materials cleaned out of seed must be destroyed if farmers are to win the war against weeds. A key figure in this struggle is the cleaning plant operator, who can render great service to a community.

pass through the plant. Special methods have to be used to remove some of them.

If a certain lot of seed is to be offered for sale, it must be cleaned to meet the requirements of the Seeds Act. This cannot be done if the operator is unable to identify the weed seeds, which are grouped into four classes under the act: (1) Prohibited (2) Primary Noxious (3) Secondary Noxious (4) Other Weed Seeds. The only way an operator can learn to identify weed seeds is to study them carefully, if possible under the instruction of someone who is thoroughly familiar with them. In the laboratories operated by the Plant Products Division we consider that it takes at least a year of continuous training to make a reasonably competent analyst capable of making ordinary tests of the less difficult seeds, and much longer than this before all the most difficult seeds can be identified with accuracy.

The advisability of holding short courses for operators of small cleaning plants has been tentatively discussed, and it is to be hoped that such courses will be a reality before long. The operator of a cleaning plant should be able to advise farmers whether their grain should be used for seeding. No one should sow seed which has not been cleaned up to the point where it will qualify for seed under the Seeds Act.

The manager of a cleaning plant can perform a service to farmers by giving advice about the wisdom of using certain lots for seeding. They should attempt to discourage farmers from taking back from the cleaning plant lots of seed which cannot be cleaned up at least No. 3 seed grade. When a plant operator knows that any lot of seed contains too many weed seeds after being cleaned, he should certainly use all his powers of persuasion to prevent its being used for seeding. By so doing he will be rendering real service to the individual farmer, and to the community in general.

Another service the operator can give is to discourage farmers from taking home certain kinds of screenings. There may be some justification for using cereal screenings as feed, since they usually consist of small and broken kernels and weed seeds such as wild buckwheat, lamb's-quarter, and others which have some feeding value. Such screenings should be carefully ground before feeding, to keep the seeds in the manure from germinating.

But screenings from the small seeds are of practically no value. They are usually very dusty and contain a very large proportion of weed seeds, so that they are of no use to the farmer and should be destroyed.



# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec  
Department of Agriculture*

## Little Decided at Agricultural Conference

A pig in a poke was all that delegates from provincial departments of agriculture and farm organizations were able to take home from the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Canada's Agricultural Program for 1948. They were glad to take even that.

The Dominion Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. G. Gardiner, had given them the assurance that "some action will be taken which will result in prices rising on products fed from grain, which will take care in future of the increase brought about in feed costs through the removal of ceilings and withdrawal of drawbacks or subsidies." But they didn't know when this action would come, what form it would take or how long it would be maintained.

This year's conference, which was held in the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, lacked the feeling of direction and purpose that had pervaded previous meetings. There were two reasons for this: no agreement had been signed with the United Kingdom, although it had been expected that new contracts would be in the bag before the end of the conference; and there was no indication of a positive long-term policy for Canadian agriculture.

At the same time the conference met in a period when, even with these sign-posts, there would have been some rather difficult decisions to make. Crop failures in almost every part of the globe had resulted in a drastic shortage of wheat and rice; and even if, as was stated, nobody in Western Europe was actually starving, there was no doubt that many were hungry, and that they were ready prey for the political unrest pervading the world. And this unrest, in turn, threatened the peace and prosperity of the world. Food was undoubtedly needed to head off trouble; and wheat would provide the most human food from each acre of land suitable for growing it.

Against this, the future welfare of Canadian agriculture and the Canadian farmer had to be considered. Since Eastern Canada relies mostly on livestock products for farm returns, and since there was already a bad feed shortage forcing curtailment of the industry, the welfare of every Eastern Canadian farmer would be jeopardized if production of feed grain were reduced too much, to allow more acreage for wheat.

Under these circumstances, the real task of the conference might have been to decide how Canada could contribute most to world recovery without straining our

internal setup to the breaking point. But in the confusion that course was almost entirely overlooked.

Instead, much of the time was spent in laboring a point that everyone already recognized — the bitter blow that had been dealt to farmers by the rise in feed prices. The recent rocketing of fertilizer prices also came up again and again.

All in all, the conference seemed to have its back to a precipice, and to fear it would be pushed over. It faced the possible loss of the United Kingdom market for our livestock products — a market on which our hog business particularly had been built up. The report on the hog situation showed that, while we had an agreement for shipment of 400 million pounds of bacon to Britain in 1948, low production and high domestic consumption would probably pull our actual exportable surplus down to 75 million pounds.

Even with our 1947 deliveries of over 278 million pounds, Great Britain has had to reduce its bacon ration to one ounce per person weekly — that's just one thin slice. And if our deliveries are reduced to only about a quarter of the 1947 level, bacon would almost entirely disappear from United Kingdom tables. It's doubtful if it could be considered of much value as a food if one person could have only one slice a month.

At the same time the United Kingdom is strapped for dollars. As the Hon. John Strachey, British Minister of Food, had stated shortly before, whether the United



Dominion Government officials, with the Hon. J. G. Gardiner speaking.

Kingdom could buy any more food from Canada would depend on "what Canada will let us use for money."

These were some of the uncertainties that made it difficult for the conference to come to grips with a positive program. It was caught between agricultural needs and human needs, between stabilized prices and a free market, between the world's hunger and a financial bottleneck.

The Saskatchewan spokesman, Morris Hartnett, warned that "a province's efforts toward a sound agricultural program can be nullified by programs and policies over which it has no control." He told of recent heavy livestock reductions precipitated by the rise in feed prices, and said that these were wrecking departmental policies designed to secure stability through diversification.

Alberta's deputy minister, O. S. Longman, reminded the delegates that "the function of agriculture is to serve the needs of humanity . . . I hope that the knowledge and experience we've gained in the last few years won't be lost."

It was up to our ingenuity to solve our problems, said Mr. Longman. The two sections of the country should look on each other as partners in this work. And to develop a long-term plan, much more co-ordinated thinking was needed.

Hon. Frank Putnam, Minister of Agriculture for British Columbia, was not at all satisfied with the progress of the conference this season. This conference, he said, had developed into a financial rather than an agricultural affair.

At the end of the conference Hon. Mr. Gardiner noted that delegates had charged that dealers had withheld both butter and feed grains from the market pending price rises, and that fertilizer prices were advancing too sharply.

"If we are going to remain entirely free from government control," he said, "all three have got to be handled better in the future than they were handled this summer. In removing controls, he said, the government had done what it thought best for the country.

Dealing with feed grain, he suggested that Eastern farmers form co-operatives to take over the grain from Western pools. He thought this would be better than asking the government to handle it. He also said that a Dominion Marketing Act would be discussed at the present session of Parliament.

The farmer's situation was outlined by H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. The faith of our farm people had become frayed, said Mr. Hannam. It had been damaged by the sudden rise in feed grain prices, by the nebulousness of the market outlook, by the strikes that had hit them heavily, and by consumer resistance to jumping food prices.

The Federation recommended that measures be taken



Maritime, Quebec and Ontario delegates.

to effect a rise in the selling price of livestock and livestock products, in order to establish approximately the same relationship between farm prices and costs of production which prevailed prior to decontrol of millfeeds, protein feeds and mixed feeds, and prior to the removal of controls and drawbacks on feed grains.

It also recommended renegotiating or subsidizing export contracts, and a partial opening of the U.S. market, under which a controlled export of beef cattle would be handled by a government board.

It asked the government to investigate the price rises in high protein feeds and fertilizers and bring about a proper adjustment, even to the extent of re-imposing price ceilings if necessary, after rolling prices back to a reasonable level.

The Federation also feared that speculative buying might at any time cause feed grain prices to rise sharply, and thus again destroy the price relationship, or that a lack of speculative buying plus a decline in purchasing power might cause a sharp decline to the detriment of the grain grower; and it recommended that coarse grain prices be stabilized by placing the marketing of them under the Canadian Wheat Board.

Should the government not find it possible to implement these recommendations at once, the Federation asked that it take whatever other positive action might be necessary to maintain price relationships.

Farmers wanted some assurance, said Mr. Hannam, that the relationship between their costs and their returns would be maintained on a stable basis. They were concerned as to where their markets would be, what would be the long-term permanence of these markets, and what would be used for money.

"Are we going to throw our long-standing markets overboard, or allow them to collapse?" asked Mr. Hannam. He wasn't at all sure that we could change markets very drastically and retain much hope of permanence.

The Federation, he said, was greatly concerned over the world food shortage. The present hunger in Europe was likely to cause so much social unrest that it might result in international conflict — which would be disastrous for Canadian farmers, as well as everyone else.

The many difficulties besetting Canadian farmers were also dealt with by the delegates of the nine provinces. Leading off the discussion, W. R. Shaw, deputy minister for Prince Edward Island, said that P.E.I. farmers were in a belligerent mood. They needed a clean-cut statement and a clear view of conditions, so that they could see the situation ahead and mould their program accordingly.

Speaking for Nova Scotia the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Hon. A. W. McKenzie, stressed the need for a policy of long-term production. And in the Maritime Provinces, he said, "Where we have an unemployment situation due to no fault of our own, we hope that any adjustment will not increase the cost of living."

The chief of the New Brunswick delegation, Hon. A. C. Taylor, cited considerable increases in feed prices over a thirty-day period this fall — amounting to over 50 percent on some feeds. He also questioned the necessity for fertilizers costing 20 to 30% more in the Maritimes than in Ontario or Quebec. Turning to marketing, Mr. Taylor said: "We can't afford to let our marketing go slipshod and depend on someone else to do it for us. We farmers should give more thought to building a system that suits us."

Hon. Laurent Barré, Minister of Agriculture for Quebec, was concerned over loss of population from rural districts. Although a great deal had been spent on colonization during the last fifty years, he said, the population in Quebec was still about the same. Boys kept on leaving the farm, lured by higher urban wages. And he didn't believe that the farm labour situation could be cured by bringing in immigrants and forcing them to work on the land.



The Canadian Federation of Agriculture group.

He reviewed the 1947 season in Quebec and said that, quality considered, the province didn't have more than a quarter of a crop. Under these circumstances at least  $1\frac{1}{4}$  million bushels of oats and barley would be needed for seed in 1948. He asked that the province be given assistance similar to that given western farmers under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, to provide the needed seed.

Mr. Barré declared that Canada must develop a national agricultural policy for the country as a whole — so that each region could confidently produce the crops for which it was best suited. As part of such a policy he stated that the freight subsidy on feed grain should be put on a permanent basis.

C. D. Graham, deputy minister for Ontario, said that Canada could not afford to throw overboard the things that had helped to place its agriculture on a sound basis — zonation of crops, soil conservation, stabilization and continuity. But the whole structure was threatened unless farmers could be assured of continuity of supply and movement of feed grain at prices they could afford to pay.

Turning to marketing, he said that the provinces needed to review their legislation in this field, since they were moving out of the transition period into the free market. Each province should consider what legislation it needed, then they should get together to decide the national needs. In the meantime, everything possible should be done to stabilize markets.

Speaking for the Manitoba delegation, W. J. Parker promised: "We'll back any government that will design a production pattern that will attempt to service actual need rather than mercantile interests only." At The Hague in May the International Federation of Agriculture Producers had accepted the challenge to supply food in abundance. But he said, "we don't think this should be done entirely at the cost of the consumer." Mr. Parker asked that prices be kept in line until the time of final decontrol.

### Successful Short Course At St. Hyacinthe

Twenty-four students, including six agronomes, recently completed a special short course at the Provincial Dairy School at St. Hyacinthe, where they studied problems of the production and sale of milk, and learned something of the operations of a modern dairy plant. All completed the course successfully and received a certificate.

As part of the course, they made trips to various establishments in Montreal and St. John, where they saw actual commercial dairy plants in operation. On the Montreal trip they were the guests of the Quebec Milk Distributors at a dinner presided over by the president, Jules Côté and the secretary, Leonard Roy.

## Order Oats Early for 1948

All signs point to a very small supply of seed oats for the 1948 season, and farmers should act without delay to get their orders in to their usual suppliers, so that steps can be taken to get the orders in to the Western growers as soon as possible. This is the advice of the Quebec Seed Board, following a recent meeting of the Board executive called especially to study this problem.

The Board calls attention to the following facts. First, it is agreed that Quebec will have to import substantial quantities of seed oats for the 1948 seeding. Secondly, officials of the Dominion Department of Agriculture are confident that Saskatchewan and Alberta will be able to supply seed of varieties suitable for use in Quebec. Varieties available, in the order of quantity, are Victory, Banner, Ajax and Vanguard. Third, the Seed Board urges all farmers to put in group orders through their local agricultural organization (co-operative, syndicate, agricultural society, farmers' club, etc.) at the earliest possible date, to the firm through which they usually buy their supplies.

The amount of seed oats which will be sown in Quebec next spring depends directly on how soon the orders are placed, and the sooner the better.

## Lack of Cars Holds Up Fertilizer Shipments

At the moment of writing it appears that there will be more fertilizer available in Canada this year than last. Cyanamide and ammonium sulphate will be sufficient, and there will be a considerable surplus of ammonium nitrate.

An arrangement has been made by which France will exchange muriate of potash for some of our ammonium nitrate. There will be enough muriate under this arrangement to supply 30% of our requirements, the rest being imported from the United States. Production of superphosphate will be increased to 250,000 tons, amply sufficient for all domestic needs.

Although the supply picture is bright, the delivery of this fertilizer is not so simple. In the spring of 1947, fertilizer manufacturers in Quebec were able to get only 25% or 30% of the railroad cars they needed to deliver the fertilizer ordered by their customers, and there is little to indicate that the situation has changed much for the better. About the only reason that the fertilizer arrived in time last year was because seeding was so late. But if we have a normal spring this year, it would appear that a lot of fertilizer ordered by our farmers will not be delivered in time.

The Provincial Fertilizer Board cannot do much to solve this problem, but it does urge all farmers to order their fertilizer at once, and be ready to take delivery whenever the fertilizer can be shipped, preferably during January and February.

## Quebec Cheese Scores at Belleville

Again this year some thirty Quebec cheese makers sent exhibits to the Canadian Cheese Show at Belleville, Ont. Mr. Ronald Camirand, inspector-general of dairy plants in Quebec attended the show as the official Quebec representative, and reports that our cheese makers fared well in the judging.

George Harbour, of the Theberge & Pouliot cheese factory at Armagh, Bellechasse county, took two trophies: the J. D. Leclaire Trophy, offered by the Province of Quebec, and the Co-operative Federee Trophy. His September and October cheese scored 97.2 points.

Other prize winners at Belleville included Joseph Noel of the dairy syndicate at Ste. Euphémie de Montmagny, Louis Laramee, of the St. Rosaire d'Arthabaska Co-operative, Henri Bilodeau, of the Roberval Co-operative, Odina Ferland, St. Antoine de Lotbiniere, Lucien Landry, St. Paul de Chester, and Laurent Rouleau of St. Eusebe.

## Barley Contest Will Be a Permanent Affair

The creation of a fund of \$350,000 will assure that the National Barley Contest will be continued from year to year, in view of the excellent results that have been obtained through this contest last year. During 1947, the contest was conducted in the same manner as in 1946, and the winner will be determined toward the end of January.

This contest is popular among Quebec farmers, as can be seen by the fact that entries from Quebec were 40% more numerous than from any other province.

The Brewers' Association, originators and sponsors of the contest, have announced that special measures will be taken to increase and improve hop production in Canada, and further details of this portion of their programme may be available shortly.



Judges at work in the \$25,000 National Barley Contest. The top Quebec Regional winners compete against each other in January for the Provincial Championship. Some of the regional judges are shown above, left to right: Messrs. N. Parent, R. Cloutier, L. Raymond, J. Ferland, O. Crepeau, L. Belzile.

## Dehorning Calves

For cattle in the wild state, the need of the horns as weapons of offence and defense is apparent, but among domesticated cattle, such "weapons" are a menace. Horns on cattle not only make handling more difficult, but are a source of danger to other cattle and to the cattleman; they cause injuries, which, on dressed carcasses, can be seen as large bruises, necessitating trimming and loss.

The most desirable method is to prevent the horns from growing on the young calves by using caustic soda or potash. A calf should be treated not later than a week or ten days of age. At this age the horns may be detected as small buttons which are loosely attached to the skull. The caustic may be obtained in the form of sticks about the thickness of an ordinary lead pencil. Heavy brown paper may be wrapped around the stick of caustic to prevent it burning the fingers, leaving one end of the stick uncovered.

The preparation of the calf consists in clipping the hair from around the young horn or button for an area of about two inches in diameter. To prevent the caustic from spreading to the surrounding skin or running into the eyes, a ring of vaseline is applied to the area immediately surrounding the horn button. Moisten the uncovered end of the caustic stick and rub it on the horn buttons — first on one, then on the other — two or three times, allowing the caustic to dry after each application. Apply the caustic to the horn button only, for if it is brought in contact with the surrounding skin it will cause pain. A good burning job is imperative, if the button is to be destroyed so that no stubs or misshapen horns can develop.

After treatment the calf should be protected from rain, as water on the head after application of the caustic will cause it to run down over the face. It is advisable to keep calves separated from other calves while being treated and for a few days afterwards. If the caustic is used properly, a scab will form over the button and drop off a few days later.

## Pasture Fertilization That Did Too Well

Wherever moisture is sufficiently plentiful, surface fertilization of our long term and natural pastures has become a well established custom. Where the natural store of organic matter has not been too far depleted by cropping and where moisture conditions are good, increases of from 50-100% in carrying capacity have resulted.

Seldom is it the experience to find any ill effect from such fertilizer treatments. From one of the provinces down by the sea, however, comes a rather unexpected result.

A farmer who had a big range of very poor pasture

was concerned about his sheep flock — some twenty-five in number. They were not doing well — his lamb crop was invariably second grade. He duly had them treated for parasites and found plenty. Discussing the pasture angle, it was suggested that perhaps fertilization would improve the nutritional angle. Without too definite an idea, he decided to use a complete fertilizer and one carrying 4% of nitrogen and to apply it at a rate of one-half ton per acre. He accordingly marked off an area of four acres and put on the fertilizer.

The results were at the same time both better and worse than he had anticipated. The whole sheep flock spent the whole summer on the four acres — carrying capacity in other words went up tremendously — result favorable. However, the flock did not do well. The heavy stocking gave the remnant of parasites that usually remains after treatment almost ideal conditions to multiply and reinfect the whole flock and particularly the lambs — result wholly unfavorable — the lamb crop dropped another grade.

This rather unexpected result illustrates the danger of too heavy a concentration of a class of stock like sheep where parasitism is an ever present trouble. It is a clear argument for rational grazing. Unless sheep have a large range they should not be concentrated on one piece of pasture for more than two months at any time.

## Quebec Entries Win at Toronto

A composite herd of Ayrshires from the exhibits of Messrs. J. H. Black, R. R. Ness and P. D. McArthur, and the St. Hyacinthe Ayrshire Club, took the championship ribbon at the Winter Fair at Toronto. Other Quebec breeders placed well against strong competition. For example, Ernest and L. A. Sylvestre of St. Hyacinthe and O. A. Fowler of Kingsbury won championships in the junior and senior bull classes, and the Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere Canadian entry was judged female grand champion.

In Jerseys, the herds of P. Veillon of Sweetsburg and J. L. Dion of East Farnham stood up high in the estimation of the judges, taking seconds, thirds and fourths.

Quebec breeds entered 40 Canadian horses and both male and female championships came to our entries, grand champion male to Armand Bourassa of Yamachiche and grand champion female to Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere.

## New Tractor Made in Canada

For the first time in Canada, a crawler type tractor and bulldozer is being manufactured by Canadian Vickers Limited, Montreal. This firm has been licensed by Laurentide Equipment Company Limited which will distribute the "Laurentide Beetle" tractor through dealers and agents to be appointed.

# FEDERAL BALANCED RATIONS

Contain the 21 essential nutrition ingredients — vitamins, proteins, minerals, roughages, etc. — required for sound growth and vitality. Starting,

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RATIONS

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## Strippings

by Gordon W. Geddes

When a local feed dealer asked me on December 1st if I wanted to buy some more barley meal before the rise, I laughed right out loud thinking that the profits he made on the rise were big enough so he was trying to joke with me. But he really meant it as he claims there is to be a further rise so the farmers who were keeping their courage up by predicting a drop on Dec. 1st will be disappointed. However, they will not be the only ones disappointed. Even if the inequalities between the cost of feeds and the price of the products made from them could be miraculously adjusted overnight, that would not bring back the sows already shipped to market or the pigs killed at birth. Nor would it bring the cows already dried off back into milk. So irreparable damage has been done to the attempt to produce food for the hungry.

And one of the worst features of it all is that even the Western farmer did not benefit to any great extent from the rise. All this upheaval has been for the benefit of the speculators and middlemen. Besides the loss of needed food there is the drop in the national income. Farmers cannot keep up their purchasing power by not growing hogs or not producing milk. The result of this speculative orgy might well be a monkeywrench in our national economic machinery that would strip all the gears.

Of course, the damage could be lessened by an **immediate** adjustment of the export contract prices on meat, dairy and poultry products. Present prices are a very effective ceiling to prevent farmers getting relief by a rise in selling prices. Such action will be difficult as it forces the export price too high for countries already in economic distress and it helps to force the price spiral still nearer to the point where we all get dizzy and fall off into the abyss of depression. An alternative is to force the price of feed back into

line but probably we cannot expect that from our politicians. The other alternative is to let the speculators sit on their mounds of grain until the farmers' refusal to buy in quantity brings on a clearance sale of feed grain. And that wouldn't be so good either.

If the weatherman had let us get all our hay in the condition of a little we have fed lately, at least we could have had better returns from what grain we did feed. But that little was unfortunately the exception and not the rule for this season. It was the first we cut and then no more was cut, except what was put into the silo, for three weeks. By then the real milk value was gone from it. And of course our grain crop suffered from the weather as well. Still, while we are condemning the weatherman, one cannot help wondering how much of the blame belongs to ourselves for foolishly destroying the forest growth which might have done so much to control moisture conditions.

If after we had removed it, we had even cooperated with Nature to allow her to restore it, things would have been better. J. G. Hardy, a farmer at St-Basile, showed what might be done in that line. In 1929 he bought a woodlot which had been slaughtered and was able to tap 150 maples on it the next year. He cared for it so well that last year he was able to tap 1500 on the same area. He won the prize offered by the Quebec Forestry Association for exploitation of sugar bushes and the judges were sure that he could tap 3000 maples in another ten years. We must learn that wood is a crop and even if we are foolish enough to overdo the harvest one year we can still grow more wood on the same land.

Lately we have been carrying out another experiment in solving the labour problem, that of sharing a man with a neighbour. Since we both have to share him with his own flock of hogs, he comes at seven and leaves at six but with the help of Dot and the milking machine, the chores before and after those hours get done after a fashion. The other partner in this enterprise is a hog and poultry farmer

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POULTRY FEEDS



so Ivan gets lots of hog experience.

Just recently we had a sick hog here. As it was nearly ready for market we were quite anxious to save it. When repeated doses of salts failed to have any effect, we started giving it enemas. At last the two treatments got together and the hog got better. Ivan said he never saw a hog so sick get well again and I don't think I ever did either. It has now gone to market and looked like a good prospect for an A grade so it was worth the extra bother.

This has to be written so far ahead that I usually forget all about such things but for once I wish everyone a Happy New Year. The word prosperous is purposely omitted since it would be an idle wish with feed prices as they are.

## Trapdoor Stairs Frequent Causes Farm Accidents

Farm accidents and their causes are analysed in a recent report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics dealing with non-fatal accidents on Canadian farms for the 12 months ended June 1, 1947.

It is estimated that there were 37,200 accidents on farm homes, and 30,000 of these were to men. The most frequent injury arose from falls, and the most frequent reason was the existence of open trap-doors and inadequately protected stairs. Injury from falls was more of a hazard to young and old persons than to those in intermediate age groups. On the other hand, injury from cutting and piercing tools and from crushing, which were almost as frequent as injuries from falls, occurred most often among persons between 20 to 44 years of age, and were often sustained while handling agricultural machinery.

Miscellaneous accidents totalled 10,000 and a frequent cause was injury from horses. Backfiring of tractors and other engines, automobile accidents, and poisonous gas, also figured among the miscellaneous causes.

Accidents were most frequent in fields and woodlots where nearly 60

per cent occurred. Barns and outbuildings were the next most common place of accident, followed by accidents off the farm, and lastly by injuries sustained in the farm house. Though accidents which occur off the farm may not be considered to be farm accidents in a strict sense, they are so closely associated with rural life that they cannot be excluded. Accidents in this class include automobile accidents, falls from horses and bicycles, runaway teams and falls while travelling to and from the farm.

## Counting the Rats

The Farm Science Reporter, published by Iowa State College, tells how a farmer can determine the number of rats he is boarding, as follows:

"If you never see rats, but see signs of rats and rat damage, there are from 1 to 100 rats on your farm. If you see rats now and then at night, there are from 100 to 500. If you see rats every night and a few occasionally in the daytime, you are boarding from 500 to 1,000. If you see lots of rats at night and several every day, you probably have from 1,000 to 5,000 rats."

"With each rat costing fully \$2 (at present prices it is about \$5) each year for living expenses, you can easily determine just how big a hotel bill you are paying."

## Getting Rid of Back-Aches

On most farms there are a lot of things that could be done to save extra steps or additional lifting. Sometimes a fence prevents the farmer from taking the shortest route between much-used buildings. Occasionally supplies of feed are located too far from the place they are being fed to livestock. Again, a piece of mechanical equipment is poorly placed. These are just a few of the common things that add miles of walking or much extra lifting to farm routine.

## Keeping Up Value of Eggs

Right after the breeding season male birds should be separated from the laying flock, as the warm summer temperatures will cause the germ of a fertile egg to develop. Warmth has the additional effect of reducing the cooking qualities of the eggs, and the eggs should be held at a cool temperature, preferably about 60-65 degrees F. in farm cellars, well ventilated and free from strong odours.

Part of the post-war production programme of a number of manufacturers of agricultural machinery is the manufacture of smaller power units and equipment better suited to the small farm.



## CO-OPERATION AND MARKETING

*A page of interest to members of farmer's co-operatives*

### St. Damase Co-op Packs Poultry Profitably



its contents are clean and wholesome chicken.

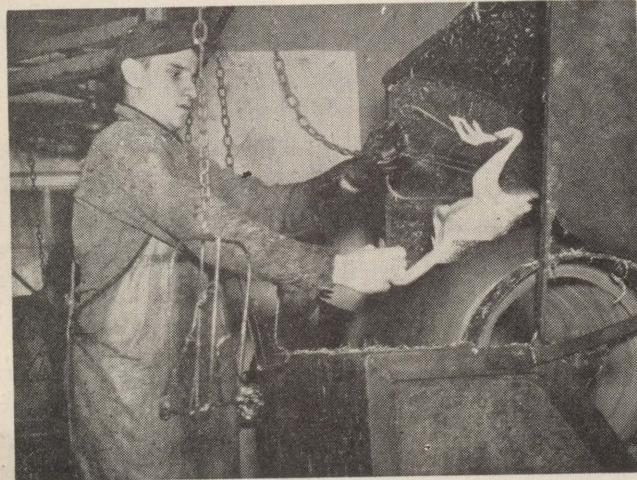
This co-operative at St. Damase, about seven miles south of St. Hyacinthe in the Province of Quebec, offers a unique service both to its members and to its customers. It is the only such plant in Canada, for example, which does not pay its suppliers at a flat rate for the fowl and eggs they bring in, but instead pays on the basis of the value of the product to the consumer. Its operations are planned so as to assure the trade of a steady volume of poultry products of various kinds: broilers, roasters, "Bar-B-Cue" chicken, chicken pieces (all of which can be delivered quick-frozen for freshness), boneless chicken, sandwich spread, chicken broth. Shipments are made two or three times a week, and storage facilities are available which permit deliveries to be made regularly regardless of fluctuations in supply.

The co-operative, whose president is Alcide Blanchard, was organized in March, 1945, under the name

When you see the trademark "Damas" on a tin of boneless chicken or of chicken sandwich spread you may be sure that the can was packed in one of Canada's most sanitary poultry packing plants and that

"La Société Co-opérative Avicole Régionale St. Damase" with 152 original members. Total membership as at November 1, 1947, was 412, a remarkable growth in such a short time, and a fact which points to the service this co-op is giving the farmers of the surrounding district. Building was started at the end of April, 1945, and operations of a kind were begun in July of that year. An addition to the plant was made during 1946 and 1947, which permitted complete mechanization of all operations. It also made it possible for the co-op to start the manufacture of canned products — boneless chicken and chicken sandwich spread, which are sold under the trade name "Damas". The whole plant is run in a most efficient manner by general manager G. C. Vincent, and the visitor is struck by the fact that nothing is allowed to go to waste. Bones, legs and feet, entrails, necks and heads are sold for fox food. Small pieces left after the boning process are used, with the gizzards and livers, to make the chicken paste. The feathers are dried and sold to manufacturers of bedding. The only part of the chicken for which no use has yet been found is the blood. A Federal inspector is in constant attendance at the plant, and it is the pride of the management that only the best is permitted to go into their products.

Working at capacity the co-op. can process 3,000 birds a day. Overhead conveyor lines take the birds from the receiving room through the various stages and there is a minimum of handling needed. Hanging head down on clips attached to the conveyor, the birds go first to the killing room, then on to a scalding vat where streams of



A few seconds on the revolving drum and the last of the feathers disappear.



The carcasses are drawn as they pass along this machine. As the trays reach the far end of the table they empty automatically, are sprayed with water, and return to the table for another load.



A gleaming white bandsaw removes feet and heads. The girl at the rear is tying the carcasses before they are packed for freezing.

hot water loosen the feathers. Next they pass, still on the conveyor, through a mechanical plucker where the bulk of the feathers are removed. Final plucking is done on another machine where the bird must be removed from the conveyor and manipulated on the drum by an operator. Hung back on the conveyor again the carcasses pass in front of operators who singe them with small blowtorches; they are then hung on racks and taken to the cold rooms for cooling. The whole process takes about ten minutes.

Once cooled, the carcasses are again hung on a conveyor and pass along a machine at which operators, all in gleaming white coveralls, draw them; the cleanliness at this stage of the operation is particularly noteworthy. Here each carcass is inspected and graded. The drawn carcasses are washed, still on the conveyor, then after heads, legs and wing-tips are removed on a band saw, they are packed into boxes and taken to the quick-freezer where they are frozen at a temperature of 25° below zero and stored until shipped.

This quick-freezing assures that the product reaches the purchaser in prime condition. An interesting piece of equipment is a heavily-insulated cover than can be lowered right down over a loaded truck, so that even on a hot day in summer the birds will still be frozen when they arrive at their destination.

The canning plant is also a model of efficiency and cleanliness. Just put into operation recently, it is well equipped to turn out a quality product. Large slices of white and dark meat (two layers of white to one of dark) go into each can which then passes on a conveyor-belt to the end of the table where the gelatin-broth is added. After being sealed the cans are processed for an hour and a half at a temperature of 240°F, are labelled and packed.

A substantial business is also done in eggs. The well-equipped egg-handling department packed some 25,000 cases during the year, many of which were for export. Here again machinery does much of the work. The eggs, after being candled, roll onto a grading machine which



Manager Vincent and President Blanchard display a case of broilers, frozen and ready for shipment to market.

separates them by weight into the various categories. From the grader they roll off into compartments where they stop momentarily to be stamped "Canada" if for export, then each is released down an incline to the packing table where they are placed into cases or in dozen boxes according to grade.

This co-op., by the way, is the first one in Canada to export dressed poultry. It is estimated that the plant will have sold about 1,250,000 pounds of poultry, 200,000 pounds of fox meat and 60,000 pounds of feathers when the figures for 1947 have been all made up.

## Lincoln to Address Canadian Co-op Congress

Murray D. Lincoln, President of the Co-operative League of the U.S.A. and internationally known co-op leader, has accepted an invitation to address the annual Canadian Co-operative Congress to take place in Saskatoon on March 9-12, 1948.

The first afternoon of Congress will be devoted to three discussions sectors, covering Co-operative insurance, provincial and national co-operative credit, and taxation of co-operatives.

Congress, in addition to its regular business, will also hear discussions of reports on co-operative terminology, labour co-partnerships (employee-owned co-operatives), and co-operative health and medical services.

**Next Steps in Co-operative Advance**, is a stimulating pamphlet of 40 pages by Prof. G. D. H. Cole. (10 cents a copy, from Co-operative Union, Ottawa.) It is reprinted from The Scottish Co-operator and its purpose is to ask co-operators some frank questions about their "aims and hopes".

## MARKET COMMENTS

The past month recorded a decided increase in the prices of butter, potatoes and bran. This was the chief change in the prices here recorded. Naturally changes also occurred during that time in related dairy products, other vegetables and some other feeds. The price of linseed meal which has not been quoted recently is again available.

Hog runs for the past few weeks have been much larger than during the same period of the previous year. This is only partly due to liquidation of sows; it is due largely to the percentage of light hogs to the total which for the week ending December 11th made up 3.6 per cent of the total as contrasted with 1.6 per cent for the year 1947 thus far.

The first estimate of value of field crops is now available. Higher unit prices, even combined with lower yields, make the field crops of 1947 some \$40,000,000 more valuable than the greater output of 1946. Provincially the grain-growing provinces are slightly down while all the other provinces record a rise.

The value of the field crops of Quebec are estimated \$20,000,000 above the 1946 crop. The bulk of this increase was in the value of hay, estimated at both greater quantity and higher price. This is not in many areas a cash crop.

The potato crop of the Dominion is valued at nearly \$89,000,000. This is a record value, though the estimate of the output is some 6,000,000 fewer hundredweights. In this case a 13 per cent decrease in output made the crop 7 per cent more valuable. It does not always work that way.

### Trend of Prices

	Dec. 1946	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>			
Steers, good, per cwt.....	12.36	14.50	14.28
Cows, good, per cwt.....	9.93	10.35	10.28
Cows, common, per cwt.....	7.75	7.73	7.85
Canners and cutters, per cwt.....	6.80	5.60	5.93
Veal, good and choice, per cwt.....	16.00	15.50	16.15
Veal, common, per cwt.....	14.08	13.30	12.88
Lambs, good, per cwt.....	15.15	13.70	15.50
Lambs, common, per cwt.....	9.68	9.85	9.98
Bacon hogs, dressed B1, per cwt.....	21.03	22.50	22.60
<b>ANIMAL PRODUCTS</b>			
Butter, per lb.....	0.42	0.58	0.66
Cheese, per lb.....	0.23	0.26	0.26
Eggs, grade A large, per doz.....	0.41	0.50	0.45
Chickens, live, 5 lb. plus per lb.....	0.27	0.28	0.27½
Chickens, dressed, milk fed A, per lb.....	0.35	0.37	0.38
<b>FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:</b>			
Apples, B.C. McIntosh, Extra fancy, per box.....	3.75	—	3.75
Apples, Quebec McIntosh.....	—	3.00	3.00
Potatoes, Quebec No. 1 per 75 lb. bag.....	1.15-1.20	1.60-1.75	2.00-2.10
<b>FEED</b>			
Bran, per ton.....	29.00	40.50	44.75-46.25
Barley meal, per ton.....		63.50-67.00	65.50-66.80
Oat chop, per ton.....		63.50-70.50	63.25-67.50
Linseed meal (383)-(new bag) per ton.....			83.00

## Make Sure of Seed Grain Now

Owing to the high costs of feed grains, mill feeds and concentrates, many farmers are dipping heavily into their supply of home grown grains. Unless farmers now make provision for their seed requirements, many will find themselves in short supply and will be compelled to buy high priced, low quality seed of doubtful origin. John D. MacLeod, director of the Ontario Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch, suggests that action be taken along the following lines:

1. Clean seed required now when farm work is not so pressing and more seed is available on which to work.
2. Purchase seed requirements early while prices are reasonable.
3. Clean and grade surplus grain of high quality and offer it as seed.

The possibility of selling high quality grain as seed and purchasing feed grain should be investigated. The matter of seed supplies for 1948 is urgent at this time, says Mr. MacLeod, and should receive first consideration in plans for increased production of feed grains.

## Two Trends in N.S. Apples

"There are two definite trends showing up in the industry that need your attention," said President W. D. Porteous at the annual convention of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association at Kentville. "The first is one that most progressive growers have been following for some years — that of changing over to more desirable all-purpose varieties, as well as cutting out blocks of orchards where the trees have reached maturity and are on the decline . . .

"The other trends are those of cold storage and box packing. The United Fruit Companies, Limited, have pledged themselves to this policy and others are following . . . It is up to growers to back this policy and ensure its success."

## Plans for Animal Health

Britain is to be provided with a veterinary service second to none under plans announced recently by the Scientific Director of the Veterinary Educational Trust. These plans include the establishment of county hospitals for animals and a laboratory diagnosis service, which will cost about £200,000 (\$800,000). The cost of animal diseases to Britain is at present between £30,000,000 (\$120,000,000) and £50,000,000 (\$200,000,000) annually.

Under the new scheme, the Trust will develop research stations dealing with the problems of ill-health and management of domesticated animals. Sites for equine, canine, and a group of farm livestock research stations have already been decided. The farm livestock stations are to be within a few miles of each other and of Cambridge, so that they can work in collaboration with the veterinary and other scientific departments of Cambridge University.



## THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes  
and to matters of interest to them*

# The A.C.C.W. Conference

## Entertainments in Holland

Being the second part of Mrs. Smallman's Report

During the conference week we were enjoyably entertained at two receptions by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and by the Burgomaster of Amsterdam. Each was held in a museum of the city of Amsterdam and we were able to spend a pleasant time looking at the works of art in these museums. Music by city orchestras was enjoyed on each occasion.

The Amsterdam Concert Orchestra as well, gave a concert in our honour. This was an opportunity of hearing a world famous orchestra and especially did we enjoy the cello soloist. Selections from Wagner, Saint-Saens and Tchaikowsky comprised the programme. It was a delightful performance indeed.

No visit to Amsterdam would be complete without a trip through the canals. We saw many objects of interest; an old church of the 1600's; buildings erected in 1620; a pawn shop; the house of the three canals; the old and new bank; a very narrow alley that would accommodate only one person passing through at a time; the house of a slave owner with figures of Negro boys over the doorway; and in the harbour an aircraft carrier; boats loading for Africa and South America, a whaling boat which would sail for the Antarctic in October and a boat being repaired in dry dock.

On Sunday the 14th, we started our tours. We left in the morning and were ferried to New Amsterdam where we boarded an electric train for Volendam. On arrival, we met the people coming from church and as they were in national costume the parade was very colourful. The houses are small but immaculately clean with small ditches in front of each and the roadway between. We had dinner here in a hotel on the sea wall and in the afternoon we left by boat for Markan, an island in the Zuyder Zee. Crowds of people came to the docks to greet the arrival of the boats. A stroll around the island showed us the very narrow walks between the houses. The people wore Klompen and many were painted with roses or other adornments and the national costume was different. We learned one interesting story here. Boys and girls dress alike when under seven years of age. The sex is told only by the round spot in the print on the back of the bonnet. This mark indicates a boy. Their hair is very fair and we were interested to

note that the fathers seemed to be keeping care of the children. The ride by boat back to Amsterdam on the Zuyder Zee was very enjoyable. We met and passed many boats showing that the Dutch on holiday enjoy being on the water.

The next day we went to Westland by bus and here we visited a quick freezing plant at Leyden. A table set up in the first hall held an exhibit of the fruits and vegetables frozen in this plant. An interesting feature was seeing on the table whole tomatoes, cauliflower and cucumbers which had been processed. Further on we visited the fruit and vegetable auction sheds. At some the produce was brought in by trucks, at others by barges. In the auction room the buyers sit on an inclined floor with an electric bell in front of them. A dial clock on the wall registers the cost of the purchase and the seat number of the buyer. The auctions are co-operative. The producer gets a price and at the end of the year further profits are divided. At luncheon in Poeldyk we were entertained by the district Women's



Here are two interesting pictures taken when Mrs. Dow visited the Sway Women's Institute, England. These were sent in by the Prov. Convenor of National and International Relations, Mrs. H. H. Mortimer. With Mrs. Dow in the group of three is Mrs. Mortimer's sister, Mrs. Visey (in the flowered dress) and Mrs. Hopkins, who writes to Mrs. Mortimer for the branch. In the other picture are shown some of the members with Mrs. Dow in the center. Mrs. Visey stands immediately behind Mrs. Dow. One of the members holds a five pound box of chocolates presented by Mrs. Dow, the first they have seen since before the war. The maple leaf worn by the member in front of Mrs. Dow was another present and is now hanging in their Institute Hall as a memento of Mrs. Dow's visit.

Association and were served delicious grapes which were the gift of the local auction. Visits were made in the afternoon to local holdings. Most of the produce is grown under glass. Grapes will be harvested through the early winter. A quarter of the five acre holding is water but it supports two families. We were always impressed by the industry of these people and by the way in which they made every inch of their land productive.

On our return to Amsterdam a visit was made to an agricultural school for country girls. The pupils came each day and there were seventy here receiving instruction in horticulture. We passed through The Hague and went to Schewringen where we had tea at a hotel garden overlooking the beach on the North Sea. Here we saw many traces of the bombing — huge hotels were gutted but the rubble was cleared away.

Wednesday we travelled to Aalsmeer where we visited the auction rooms for roses, carnations and potted plants. The directors here presented the delegates with carnations and entertained them to coffee in the Board Room where we were asked to sign the guest book. In many towns on our trips we saw places where the Germans had held public assassinations. The spots are marked with a cross and flowers are planted and carefully tended. One way by which we know that the Dutch people would "never forget".

Along our drive we were shown the buildings of Leyden University and near here we were taken to a lovely old Dutch house where we were entertained to lunch by the Vita-Ray Company (the quick-freezing plant).

We left Leyden for Booskoop, the centre of arboreal culture. A visit was made to a holding where many varieties of fancy shrubs were being grown and we had tea at the experimental school for such culture. At Leyden, on our return, we said farewell to the guides, who had been supplied to us for three days by the Minister of Agriculture, and returned to Amsterdam.

On Thursday and Friday we took a trip into North Holland. Our first stop was at an ancient farm home built in 1689. We were greeted here by the members living in this district. We visited the rooms of this house, especially the cellar, which was occupied at one time by the hired tenants. We noted an old fireplace, the tiles of which depicted biblical scenes. Leaving here we proceeded to Hoorn where we enjoyed another trip by boat on the Zuyder Zee. We docked at Enkhuisen where our bus met us and took us through picturesque country to Blokkir. We had lunch in an old farm home; in fact we were served in the stable which was very clean and painted to a shining gloss. A visit through the house showed us an old cupboard, a box bed in the wall partition shut off by doors, and a door which was opened

only for funerals and weddings, which told us that many of their customs are still observed.

Leaving here we stopped at a farm where we saw champion Friesian cattle. Prices are less than they were but good cattle bring suitable returns. From here we toured the Wieringen Meer, a vast farming section which the Germans inundated by making breaks in the dykes. We visited the Lely Pumping Station where they were able to pump the waters out in four months and in six months crops were planted. Their property is badly damaged but the inhabitants are busy rebuilding and plan again to return to a farming life. We stopped in the Middle Meer for tea where we met the town's dignitaries and were given a welcome reception. That night we spent with our hostesses at Wieringen where the problem of different languages in no way detracted from the gracious reception we received.

The following day we visited a cabbage auction rooms and the famous cheese market at Alkmaar. The men serving this market are dressed in white with sailor hats of red, blue, green or yellow. When the cheeses are sold they are carried to the weighing room on wooden sleds and from here to the trucks. From the bridge over a nearby canal we viewed the spectacle of the clock on the market wall. A boy with a trumpet opens the show and as the clock strikes figures of horses pass back and forth on a small stage beneath the boy's figure. The notes of a carillon closes the spectacle.

We left here for Schoorl where we had lunch at a local hotel. We were greeted by the local organization and by the Burgomaster. After lunch some of the delegates took a walk along the dunes while others went by bus to the place where we were to join the walkers. The dunes are huge sand deposits along high ridges over the sea. Here the Germans, with forced Dutch labour, built their fortifications against the British who never came by this way. Abandoned radar equipment was there. Pill boxes of heavy concrete were all along and mines were still being removed. We walked up for a view of the sea along a marked path and this was well worth the effort. We looked out over the height; the tide was out and the rough waves breaking on the sand painted a marvelous scene. We proceeded along the dunes to Zaandam where we were served a tea and were given crocus bulbs so that we might always have a "little bit of Holland" in our gardens. We parted here with the singing of Auld Lang Syne. At Amsterdam that night we ate our final dinner together and said our adieu. Truly this had been a memorable occasion.

I would like to thank all those who gave a share to cover the expenses of this trip. It was a great honour to represent Quebec Women's Institutes and in return I hope to be able to serve the organization for many years to come. Thank you all sincerely.

## The Month With The W.I.

Much latent talent was disclosed when Canterbury W.I. held a short poem contest in honour of the Golden Jubilee. Here is the prize winning effort by Mrs. Chapman.

A mother in sorrow decided to do  
Something to save her country and you.  
May we keep up the good work and strive to do  
The best we can to help others too.  
Adelaide Hoodless was kind and good-hearted,  
And that is the way our W.I. started.  
Let us keep it growing stronger and stronger,  
In memory of her, our W.I. founder.

And here we are, still trying to pack what the branches are doing "to help others" into this small space. To aid in doing this we might mention the largest single activity shared by all the branches was the sending of special gift parcels to England, in time for the Christmas season. Gaily wrapped and packed and filled to the brim with good things to eat, they brought cheer to many a British home. Many boxes of used clothing were also sent and three branches Scotstown, East Clifton and Canterbury included blankets. So please realize your efforts are appreciated even when no individual mention can be made of this work.

**Argenteuil:** Arundel reports a demonstration on sewing by Miss Guild. Frontier heard a talk on the schools of Newfoundland by Rev. A. G. Moore. Lachute gave generous donations to their school for hot lunches, manual training and prizes. The Salvation Army was also remembered. Another travelling Library was ordered and 20 of the English gift books. Lakefield gave Christmas treats to all the children in the community. Morin Heights enrolled a new member and discussed several pertinent subjects on National and International Relations. Pioneer is ordering one lot of English gift books (20). A valued member, Mrs. Ernest Cooke, was presented with a life membership.

**Bonaventure:** New Richmond is keeping up their correspondence with pen pals in Missouri and gift cards were sent. 42 books were presented in various schools and the first aid kits replenished. Shigawake enrolled a new member and has ordered a set of the gift books.

**Brome:** Austin reports a most important project — plans for a community centre. An unused schoolhouse has been purchased and a committee appointed to find ways of financing the necessary alterations. Four more members joined and we wish you every success in this undertaking. Sutton heard a report of their semi-annual and an enjoyable contest was held.

**Compton:** Canterbury reports a demonstration by Miss Guild. A life membership was presented a charter member Mrs. Churchill. (This branch was organized in 1914). Cookshire had an address on "The Forgotten



Stanbridge East W.I. -- The President, Mrs. Steven Davitt is in the center back of those seated on the steps.

Children of the World" and voted \$50 to Save the Children. East Clifton presented a life membership to their Sec.-Treas. Mrs. J. W. Parkinson. Miss Guild gave a demonstration on cutting and fitting dresses. Scotstown entertained Mrs. F. G. Bennett who gave a talk on her visit to the Guelph celebration. Two new members were welcomed — 67 now on the roll.

**Chateauguay-Huntingdon:** Aubrey-Riverfield heard a talk by their local doctor on T.B. Dundee discussed ten things which should be in every home and held a quiz. Franklin Centre held a card party and auction to finance their "Parcels". Howick sponsored a special meeting when most of the branches of that district together with pupils of the High School, were invited to hear Mrs. Smallman speak on her trip to Amsterdam. Over \$75 was realized from the tea and sale which followed. Hemmingford also entertained Mrs. Smallman. A special "59th anniversary" programme was arranged and two loyal members were presented with life memberships. Ormstown was a guest of Howick to hear Mrs. Smallman. A demonstration on "How to fit a Dress", was given by Miss Guild.

**Gaspé:** L'Anse aux Cousins is giving prizes in the school and the prize money from the W.I. fair was distributed. Wakeham also received their prize money. This was pooled as usual and given this year to the Boys Scouts to help finance a Wolf Cub Pack. An apron parade and Dutch auction, and a masquerade dance netted over \$90. York is buying a loom for their own use. \$10 was voted the Q.W.I. Service Fund and here is a novel contest — guess the contents of a gaily wrapped parcel.

**Gatineau:** Aylmer East catered for the Hunt Club dinner and for the ploughing match. Short talks were given on a variety of subjects. Breckenridge reports two demonstrations, one by Miss Guild and the other by Miss Ritchie of Cornwall. Eardley is knitting for Save the Children and are also sending clothing for the same purpose. Kazabazua also sent a large box of clothing to



The group that put on a skit depicting the founding of the first Women's Institute. This was given at the Gatineau County semi-annual meeting.

Save the Children. Wright held a debate, "The Newspapers vs the Radio" which resulted in favour of the newspapers. "Mental Housecleaning" was the subject of a talk.

**Montcalm:** Rawdon had the honour of a visit from the Governor-General who turned the first sod of the new Legion Memorial Hall to be built there. The County W.I. president, Miss Lucy Daly, was among those presented to His Excellency. The Institute is to have a room in this building and furniture is being purchased for this purpose. This branch sends a 20 lb. parcel every month to two sisters in London, Eng., who share it with others not receiving any.

**Missisquoi:** Cowansville held a reception for the High School staff. A food sale and tea in connection with a Hobby Show proved most successful. Fordyce reports a sewing demonstration by Miss Walker and two more members on the roll. St. Armand held a card party with the proceeds to be used for their "Parcels". Stanbridge East held a most successful benefit dance. Two more members are reported and a Blue Cross group has been formed. This is a most active group from whom we seldom hear. Do come oftener.

**Megantic:** The county semi-annual was held in Lemesurier, with Miss Walker in attendance to give a demonstration on "Meat Dishes". The Blue Cross group at Inverness enrolled several more members and money was donated to purchase knives and forks for the Odd-Fellows Hall.

**Rouville:** Abbotsford held a special meeting when Mrs. Rollo and her sister, Miss Robertson, of Muckhart, Scotland, were guests. Mrs. Rollo conducted the meeting as they do in the Scottish Institutes with her sister singing the opening ode used at their meetings. Miss Robertson also delighted her listeners with two other Scotch songs. Mrs. Rollo gave a demonstration on the making of shortbread and scones which the members enjoyed at the tea served by the hostess, Mrs. Thomson.

**Richmond:** A highlight of the semi-annual meeting of this county was a weaving demonstration with samples

of the work on display. The county convenor of Publicity, Mrs. Flora Monahan, was the speaker on the recent Institute broadcast. Cleveland is enjoying a set of the English gift books. Dennison's Mills report several members attended the meeting in Sherbrooke Co. to hear Mrs. Smallman. Two new members were welcomed. Gore also sent members to hear Mrs. Smallman. A card party proved successful. Richmond Hill reports a busy month with a card party, a supper, a quilting in their hall and a contest on men's socks. Shipton had a delegation to hear Mrs. Smallman. A chicken pie supper, dance and food sale were profitable undertakings. Spooner Pond sponsored the last N.F.B. showing followed by a social evening and, again, a card party.

**Pontiac:** Donations to the County Hospital Fund are mentioned by all branches in this county, and boxes of clothing to Save the Children. Beech Grove enjoyed a reading, "The Golden Gate". Bristol Busy Bees sponsored a variety concert directed by the Rev. Chas. Davis. Clarendon, Mr. Tolhurst, Principal Shawville High School, led a discussion on "The Progress of Education in the last Five Years". Elmside planned a party to raise their contribution to the Hospital Fund. Shawville, films on Juvenile Delinquency were a feature of their programme. Stark's Corners studied the industries of Quebec. Sewing has been done for the hospital. Quyon had a demonstration by Mrs. Venne on "Leather Work". Wyman heard a programme dealing with Education and \$5 was voted to the Q.W.I. Service Fund.

**Shefford:** Granby Hill, proceeds from a food sale furnished funds for donations to the Salvation Army and the Can. Legion. "Members' Night" was observed with a hot supper and games. South Roxton held a "White Elephant Sale" and heard a paper on "Canadian Citizenship". Warden gave a membership pin as prize for the correct rendition of the Creed. Food sale, a donation to Save the Children, and a new member are other items.

**Sherbrooke:** Ascot catered to the Ploughman's banquet. Belvidere had a talk on Contagious Diseases and hints on its prevention in the family. Brompton Road



Little Park Hospital Amthill, England, where Kazabazua W.I. sends their parcels. The house is 125 years old and is owned by Lady Rachel Bedford, who is president of the W.I. there. Eight old ladies are inmates of this home.



The newly formed branch of the Women's Institute at Vaudreuil-Dorion. The officers, reading from left to right in the front row are: Mrs. C. Trihey, Treasurer; Mrs. A. St. Aubin, First vice-pres.; Mrs. J. L. McKellar, President; Mrs. E. Prinn, Second vice-pres.; and Mrs. H. Ardell, Secretary.

furnished lunch to the ploughmen. Assistance is being given for hot lunches and musical instruction in their school. A donation was voted the V.O.N. Cherry River held a tea and sale. Hand knit sweaters were made to send overseas. Lennoxville members visited veterans in the local hospitals and distributed maple sugar. The final instalment of their branch history was read. Orford held a "30th anniversary" tea for their branch and heard a talk on "Ulcers".

**Stanstead:** Ayer's Cliff held a paper collection and had a helpful demonstration on "Home Nursing" by Miss Guild. Beebe also had a demonstration by Miss Guild and gave \$25 to their "Memorial Playground". Minton had Rev. N. MacLeod as guest speaker who gave a talk on "Peace". Way's Mills planned their programme on the same theme. Two English guests were present who told of the hardships in that country.

**Vaudreuil-Dorion:** Prof. Hamilton and Dr. Lattimer of Macdonald College attended their meeting and spoke on the lifting of subsidies from farm produce.

## Current Notes on Education

By Hazel Coates

School supervisors have been appointed in Compton and Stanstead Counties. Mr. W. W. Roberts in Compton and Mr. A. B. Farquhar in Stanstead are both experienced teachers, and bring great enthusiasm to their work.

The Boundary Communities again enjoyed the annual Community School held at Stanstead College. One of the outstanding speakers was Prof. Wing-Tsit Chan, who lectured on Chinese Culture at Dartmouth College. His topic was "China's Choice".

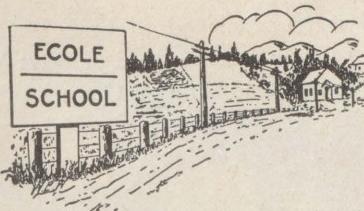
The 56 Institute members from Sherbrooke County, who were guests of Orleans County Home Demonstra-

tion at Iraburg, were privileged to hear Mrs. Curtis Cobb give a report of the meeting held in West Virginia of the National Home Demonstration Council of United States women. Like our Institutes, their Clubs work for improved conditions in rural living.

## What One County is Doing

A popular project in many counties is a display of handwork held in conjunction with the local county fair. There is one county, however, that stages its own fair and had done so most successfully for several years. To Gaspé goes this credit and here is the tale of that venture as told by Mrs. A. J. Eden, Publicity Convenor for that County.

"There are five branches in the county and each year a different branch undertakes to look after the renting of a hall or some suitable building in which to hold the fair. This is unusually held about the end of September and we try to have one or more of the provincial officers attend. This past fall we were pleased to have Mrs. R. Thomson and Miss Evelyn Walker with us. The evening before the fair all entries must be brought to the hall and tagged. Each branch uses its initial and each member has a number. Several members, usually the convenors, are on hand to arrange the exhibit in classes and sections. In the morning the judges go to work with the county convenors of Home Economics and Agriculture as assistants. Miss Walker judged the sewing and cooking and Mr. Z. Belanger, the local agronomist, the vegetables and flowers. In the afternoon the fair is open to the public and the judges pass their opinions on the various exhibits. These may now be claimed by the owners, all except the cooking; this is used for the supper which generally starts at 5 p.m. and for which we charge 25 cents. We usually hold our semi-annual meeting in the lull between supper and the evening's programme and it is at this meeting we decide where next year's fair is to be held and discuss the programmes which have been submitted by the branches, the best one being chosen to be used next year. In the evening the public is again invited to attend and we try to have an interesting programme of speeches and music. This lasts about two hours with the county president acting as chairman. In connection with this fair we have a section for the children. The programmes are made up in the same way and distributed to the schools. Each branch sponsors its own school fair and the winning entries in cooking, sewing, flowers and vegetables are taken to the Institute fair to be exhibited in competition with other schools. There are also competitions in art and literature but this is a county project only. Prizes are also given for the most attractive school grounds, the work to be done by the pupils. This is judged by the agronomist."



## LIVING AND LEARNING



### "Growing Together"

by Elizabeth Loosley

The Information Centre is gradually building up a collection of books to help people understand what it means to live against the background we have to-day. It is a hopeful sign that, in a good many fields, quietly, but steadily, under all the chaos and confusion of these post-war years, men and women are asking the most important questions. Why have we had two world wars in our lifetime? Why has our economic system crashed around us? What can we do to make the future better for our children?

There isn't much any one of us can do — except start where we are, in our own families and our own neighbourhoods. If we understand the situation with which we are directly confronted, we shall have a much better chance of understanding the more complex problems which sometimes seem utterly remote from us.

A recent book "Growing Together" by Rhoda Bacmeister, is an excellent introduction to the whole subject of the "relation between individual, family, community, nation, and the world". And, believe it or not, the book is fun to read. Mrs. Bacmeister, a mother with a family, speaks from experience!

Mrs. Bacmeister states her purpose clearly. "This book is about Americans (we can substitute 'Canadians')

growing together as children and parents in the family and in the community". She quotes an incident which sets the tone for her whole book "What is the biggest crop in this part of the country?" the young geography teacher asked. No answer: so he encouraged them, "You know, the most important thing that folks around here raise. What is it?" Then Billy got the idea. "Families!" he shouted.

"How right he was!" says Mrs. Bacmeister. Her book goes on to describe the Child and the Family; the Child, Family, and Community. She explains, through clear and simple illustrations, drawn from practical experience, how family life is the preparation for assuming adult responsibility in community living. A pretty important piece of work; for all the "planning" done at the top won't have any effect unless there is, first of all, growth and development at the family and community level.

Mrs. Bacmeister's book may be borrowed from the Information Centre. Or it may be bought from the Ryerson Press, Toronto.

It is a good book to use in a study or discussion group; particularly in combination with such films as "Your Children and You"; "You and Your Family"; "Educating Father".

### What Farm Forums Are Saying

by Floyd Griesbach

#### RURAL YOUTH

Quebec Farm Forums reported the majority of young people in the community attend Farm Forum, however, 22% of the Forums had no young people present the first night of the 1947-48 series.

Keeping young people away from the meetings were too much homework, lack of responsibilities at the meetings, discussion too long, and lack of recreation at Forum meetings.

While five Farm Forums are satisfied with farming as it is, and a number implied satisfaction, but mentioned some faults, the majority thought long hours, lack of cash, no holidays with pay, and not enough opportunity for recreation made farming below other occupations. Many blamed these problems on the attitude of farm

people themselves, and the requirements of too much capital to start farming.

#### FARM WOMEN

Sickness, school children, lack of interest, being too tired, and lack of transportation were the reasons given why many farm women do not attend Farm Forums in Quebec.

Rural electricity, stabilized farm prices, bookkeeping and co-operation between husband and wife were the suggestions offered for overcoming many problems affecting farm women.

50% of Quebec Farm Forums favour an allowance for the household and personal expenses of farm women. 30% said no, with the balance being unable to come to a decision.



Taken at a recent National Farm Radio Forum broadcast, this photo shows the growing voice of young people in Canada's agricultural affairs. Left to right before the table microphones are George Atkins of Bronte, Ont., executive director of Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario; Helen Matheson, youth director, Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and Co-operation; and Lawrence Proudfoot, past president, United Farmers of Alberta. Others in the picture are Bruce Smith, CBC announcer (standing); Fergus Mutrie, supervisor of CBC farm broadcasts (far right at table); and A. R. Kemp, assistant supervisor, CBC farm broadcasts (in control room).

## FARM ORGANIZATION

Farm Forums include people in 29 different farm organizations in Quebec. The farm women attend many of these organizations and often serve on the executive.

## HEALTH SERVICES

Many Forums reported they were near a large centre with a good hospital; however, only 70% had adequate doctor service, 30% adequate nurses, 60% adequate hospital and 55% reported enough dentists.

While every county has a health unit, only 30% of the Forums mentioned receiving help with maternal, infant, and child hygiene, 40% receive prevention and control of communicable disease, 45% had school hygiene, 40% knew the sanitary inspector, 30% had health education, 10% had mental hygiene.

108 Farm Forums want a National Health Plan, 5 said no, and 4 were undecided.

## RURAL TEACHERS

When comparing the salary of the rural teacher with that of the minister, city stenographer, agronomist, and a teacher of one room in town, most Forums were in favour of giving the teacher more than the stenographer, less than the minister, and more than the town teacher of one room. The Forums were evenly divided on the decision of her salary being higher, lower, or the same as the agronomist.

75% of the Forums favour increased provincial grants for education, 25% would increase local taxes.

49 Forums say the teacher could make the greatest

contribution to the community by taking part in community activities, 29 Forums mentioned by doing a good job at school, and 8 thought marrying a local bachelor and settling in the community would be her best contribution. (50 Ontario Farm Forums recommended the teacher marrying in the community.)

**Rupert, Gatineau Co.** — "We think it a good thing for women to serve on the school board, but in Quebec, married women cannot own property unless they have a marriage contract; therefore, only spinsters or widows can serve on the school board."

Sec. — Mrs. Miller Gibson.

**Calls Mills, Brome Co.** — "We have no rural school problem here as our schools are consolidated and children are gathered by bus. Our only difficulty is snow, but we all get out and plow them when they are full."

Sec. — Mr. Lawrence Goyette.

**Yam, Pontiac Co.** — "We think that the present system of education in our schools offers little encouragement to young people to remain on the farm."

Sec. — Mr. William Hodgins.

**Fordyce Corner, Missisquoi Co.** — "If you work 16 hours a day, you may get a good living, but one gets awful sick of it." Sec. — Mr. George A. David.

**Heath Road, Pontiac Co.** — "Forum members should be more sociable and get out among others and encourage them to attend Forums." Sec. — Mr. Emery Elliott.

**Farrellton, Gatineau Co.** — "Perhaps if we became better acquainted with our health units, it is possible we could improve them." Sec. — Mrs. William Kennedy.

**Fertile Creek, Chateauguay Co.** — "If every province had adequate health services we should have a stronger, healthier, and more contented race of people than we have today." Sec. — Mrs. Gerard Roy.

**East Settlement, Argenteuil Co.** — "Each province should form its own health plan, with help if needed in grants from the Dominion Government."

Sec. — Mrs. D. J. Rodger.

**Brookbury, Compton Co.** — "We think a National Health Plan would be of great benefit in enabling provinces to extend present medical services."

Sec. — Mrs. Chas. H. Little.

**Jerusalem-Bethany, Argenteuil Co.** — "We could dispense with the services of an agricultural representative, but could not do without a rural teacher."

Sec. — Mrs. Ernest McOuat.

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The wealth and strength of a country are its population, and the best part of the population are the cultivators of the soil. Independent farmers are everywhere the basis of society and true friends of liberty.



## THE COLLEGE PAGE

### Winding Up the Rural Repair Shops Course

In January, 1946, the Department of Agricultural Engineering, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Canadian Vocational Training, started the first of a series of six-months intensive, practical courses in mechanics, machine shop work, and the general principles of the maintenance and repair of farm machinery. The courses were given in a specially designed and completely equipped machine shop and included theoretical and practical work in a wide range of common machine shop operations — electric and oxy-acetylene welding, forge work and general blacksmithing, lathe operating, etc. In addition, lectures, demonstrations and practice work were given on farm machinery, tractor repairs, general repairs, mathematics and general agriculture, all with the purpose of training the students to be able to organize and operate a general repair shop. The idea behind the scheme was to enable graduates of the course to set themselves up in a small repair business in the rural districts of Canada, and to so train them that they would be able to take care of all and any repair jobs that might be brought in to them by the farmers of the area in which they established themselves.

Each course lasted six months: all told, seventy-five students, all veterans, enrolled, and seventy completed the courses and received their certificates. Most of the students came from Ontario, but there were twelve from

Quebec, two from Nova Scotia and one from Saskatchewan. The last class graduated on December 19, 1947, and no more courses will be offered. The machine shop, after the necessary changes have been made, will be taken over by the College and used for a repair shop and stores.

Members of the regular staff of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, with Prof. L. G. Heimpel in charge, organized and conducted the courses, with the assistance of a number of specialists engaged especially for the work. Prof. Cooper was responsible for teaching mathematics. Archie Lindsay was the instructor in forge work and blacksmithing until recently, when he left to take a new position elsewhere in the Province and was replaced by Marcel Carignan. Instruction in farm machinery and tractor maintenance and repair was given by John Bourne, and I. W. Knight was responsible for teaching welding and general machine shop practice.

The Department has tried to keep in touch with all the graduates, but it has not been possible to hear from all of them. However, it seems that about half of them are already in business for themselves; in some cases two of the boys have gone into partnership together. Most of the rest are working in some machine shop or other, getting further experience and saving their wages so that they too will be able to start out on their own.

The mechanization of farming has made the farmer more and more dependent upon outsiders to keep his equipment in running order. At the same time, the gradual disappearance of the horse has meant also the gradual disappearance of the local blacksmith shop, to which many of these repairs might have been entrusted. Today the rural repair shop must be able to do electric and oxy-acetylene welding; must be able to make parts on a lathe; rebuild storage batteries; repair and rewind electric generators and motors; repair and overhaul tractors, combines, tractor tillage machinery, feed grinding and mixing equipment and repair milking machines, electric refrigerators, water systems and all kinds of electrical equipment. It would seem that these seventy experts, soon to be established at strategic points throughout the country districts, will be able to render a real service to their customers, and at the same time make a pleasant and profitable living for themselves doing what they like to do and for which they have received special training.



The last class in the Rural Repair Shops course. The staff of instructors, in the front row, include, from left to right, Messrs. Cooper, Heimpel, Carignan, Knight, Bourne.

## *SOMETHING NEW IN QUEBEC*

Two years ago the provincial Government of Quebec established an act to promote rural electrification by means of electricity cooperatives.

By January 1947, 109 electricity cooperatives had been established throughout the Province.

Ten of these are actually operating on a large scale. They have completed about 250 miles of electric lines in rural areas, and have more than 500 miles under construction.

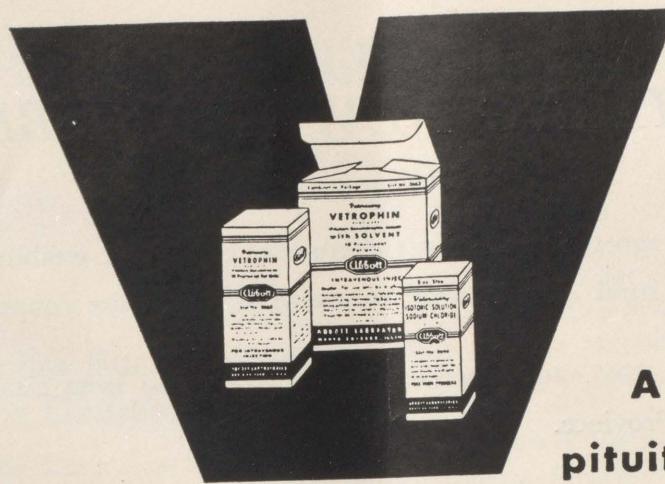
In 1945 only one Quebec farmer out of four had electricity on his farm. In 1946 the proportion was raised to approximately one third. And at the end of this year, with the combined action of Electric Power Companies and the Rural Electrification Bureau, 17,500 new farms will benefit from a proper electric service.

The Rural Electrification Act has certainly been of great help to the farm people of this Province.



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BUREAU  
QUEBEC

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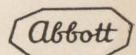


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